

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (currently amended) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 2 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence consists of a comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.
4. (currently amended) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 2 13 which is derived from Tricholoma matsutake.
5. (currently amended) A vector comprising a nucleotide molecule according to claim 2 13.
6. (original) A vector according to claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of plasmid vectors, virus vectors, and liposome vectors.
7. (original) A vector according to claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of pBluescript SK(-), pBluescript SK(+), pRIT2T, pBPV, pSVK3, pET vector, and pQE vector.
8. (original) A host cell comprising the vector according to claim 5.
9. (currently amended) A host cell according to claim 8, which is selected from the group consisting of E. coli, a yeast cell, Bacillus subtilis, a CHO cell, a

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COS cell, a human keratinocyte, a COP-5 cell, a C127 cell, a mouse 3T3 cell, a FR3T3 cell, and an HB101 cell.

10. (currently amended) A host cell according to claim 8 which is E. coli selected from the group consisting of a SOLR strain, a JM109 strain, a SURE strain, a TOPP strain, and a BL21 strain.

11. (original) A host cell according to claim 8 which is a yeast YRG-2 strain.

12. (currently amended) A process for preparing a protein, according to claim 1, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein molecule according to claim 4 13 which encodes the protein, and isolating the protein from a culture medium.

13. (re-presented--formerly dependent claim 2) A nucleotide molecule which encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

14. (new) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 13, which encodes a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

15. (new) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 13, wherein the nucleotide molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.